

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

5. (currently amended) A process for producing hot-rolled aluminum strip for can making, comprising the steps of:

feeding a feed material into a reversing roughing stage to form a strip;

finish rolling the strip from a coil to a coil in a reversing roll stand immediately after the roughing stage in a number of hot rolling passes;

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suppressing recrystallization of the rolled strip by controlled temperature management of the strip so that last of the hot rolling passes are carried out without recrystallization on the reversing roll stand from coil to coil in a ~~non-critical~~ temperature range of 260°C to a maximum of about 280°C, which is below a recrystallization temperature of the rolled strip;

coiling the strip into finished coils; and

feeding each finished coil to a continuous pusher type furnace for heat treating the finished coils to a ~~recrystallization~~ temperature above the recrystallization temperature of the rolled strip within a range including 315°C to 320°C, as a final step for producing the aluminum strip for can making.

6. (previously added) A process according to claim 5, wherein a last three hot rolling passes are carried out without recrystallization.

7. (currently amended) A plant for carrying out a process for producing hot-rolled aluminum strip for can making, comprising:

a reversing roughing stage for aluminum feed material which is used hot, the roughing stage being capable of producing a rough strip;

means for finish rolling the rough strip in a number of hot rolling passes so that last of the hot rolling passes occur without recrystallization in a ~~non-critical~~ temperature range of 260°C to a maximum of about 280°C, which is below a recrystallization temperature of the rolled strip, the finish rolling means including a four-high reversing roll stand and a respective winding device arranged on each side of the roll stand for coiling the strip;

means for heat treating the finish coiled strip to a recrystallization temperature of above the recrystallization temperature of the rolled strip within a range including 315°C to 320°C as a final production stage for producing the aluminum strip for can making, the heat treating means including a pusher-type coil furnace and a pallet transport system via which a number of contacting pallets, each holding a coil, is transported through the pusher-type coil furnace by displacement of the pallets; and

means for transporting the coiled strip to the heat treating means, one of winding devices corresponding with the transporting means, the transporting means being in working cooperation with the pallets.

8. (previously added) A plant according to claim 7, wherein the plant has a yearly production capacity below 250,000 tons.

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